

Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd

Minutes of board meeting 11 October 2001, Co-operative Purchasing Services Ltd,
Wantirna South

Present: N.Black, V.Ogier, J.Luckman, T.O'Shea, D.Griffiths and G.Charles.
Apologies: Chris Greenwood and Peter Jamieson

Co-operative Council of Australia

The Executive Officer reported on his attendance at the meeting of the Co-operative Council of Australia.

There was a brief discussion on the Council and ACCORD.

The Executive Officer noted that Nigel Hill had produced a discussion paper on co-operative law, that the Council had been discourteous and that he had apologised to Hill about the behaviour of the Council.

Retiring Directors

It was noted that the following directors would be retiring and seeking re-election at the AGM:

N.Black
D.Griffiths
T.O'Shea

Membership Renewal

The Executive Officer reported that he was concerned whether or not Bonlac and Ardmona would renew their membership.

There was a discussion on Bonlac and it was noted that the Executive Officer would follow-up with Bonlac regarding their decision on renewing membership and would also have an opportunity to meet with the Deputy Chairman of Bonlac, Kelvin Jackson, at the Monash Agribusiness seminar.

It was noted that the Bonlac AGM would be in November and that, if necessary, suppliers should be lobbied about Bonlac's membership.

AGM

There was a brief discussion on the AGM and how to maximise attendance by members.

The Chairman suggested a presentation to new members e.g. a certificate. It was agreed that this should be pursued.

There was also discussion of the need for a guest speaker that would attract an audience and the following potential guest speakers were suggested – Dr. Sally Feelgood, Tim Costello, Alan Fels and Stefano de Piero..

It was agreed that the Chairman and Executive Officer would confer on the guest speaker.

Research Proposal

The Executive Officer reported that the Federation had made a preliminary research proposal to the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation – The Co-operative: Readings on International Best Practice in an Australian Context. He said that the nominated principal investigators were Dr. Lawrence Dooley and David Griffiths and that \$50,000 was being sought over a two year period.

Energy Aggregation

The Executive Officer briefly reported on a tender submission made by Co-operative Energy Ltd, Co-operative Purchasing Services Ltd and Brunswick Environmental & Energy Services to the City of Darebin.

Monash Agribusiness

The Chairman noted that the Monash Agribusiness seminar had approximately 81 registrations.

He said that there had been 12 registrations to date for the tour with the possible addition of participants from Colombia, Ireland and WA. He said that the minimum tour registrations necessary for economic viability was 15 and that Monash had agreed to meet the shortfall if this minimum was not achieved.

Audit

The Executive Officer reported that the audit was expected to be completed in time for examination by the board at its next meeting on 25 October 2001.

The Chairman said he hoped that the audit would be available to be circulated to directors before the board meeting.

Management by Degrees

The Executive Officer reported on discussions with Management by Degrees and a Diploma of Management and Bachelor of Applied Management.

Resolved to authorise continued discussions with Management by Degrees with a report back to a future board meeting.

Resources

The Chairman provided directors with copies of each of the following:

Bailey, Jenny Co-operatives face capital challenge in Australian Farm Journal, September 2001
North, Liz Marketing Our Co-operative Advantage: Key findings from the Quantitative Research, CWS Market Research, 15 May 2000
Marketing Our Co-operative Advantage: Qualitative Research Results for Oxford, Swindon and Gloucester and West Midlands Co-operative Societies, May 2000
ORG, Key Questions & Answers Full Retail Competition, 2001
ORG, All about your new power A step-by-step guide 2001

Next meeting: **25 October 2001**

Prepared DG: 12 October 2001

Checked GC & DG: 13 October 2001